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RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

(adopted at its 15th meeting, on 17 March 1995)

CONTENTS

Rule — Page

Introductory note 6

I. SESSIONS

Regular sessions

1. Regular annual sessions 6
2. Date and duration 6
3. Notification of members 6

Special sessions

4. Convening of special sessions 6
5. Notification of members 7

Regular and special sessions

6. Place of meeting 7
7. Notification to observers 7
8. Temporary adjournment of session 7

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CONTENTS (continued)

Rule — Page

II. AGENDA

Regular sessions

9. Provisional agenda 8
10. Drawing up of the provisional agenda 8
11. Supplementary items 8
12. Additional items 9

Special sessions

13. Communication of the provisional agenda 9
14. Provisional agenda 9
15. Supplementary items 9
16. Additional items 9

Regular and special sessions

17. Explanatory memorandum 10
18. Adoption of the agenda 10
19. Amendment and deletion of items 10
20. Debate on inclusion of items 10
21. Modification of the allocation of expenses 10

III. REPRESENTATION

22. Representation 11

IV. CREDENTIALS

23. Submission of credentials 11
24. Credentials Committee 11
25. Provisional admission to a session 11
26. Objection to the representation 12

V. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

27. Temporary President 12
28. Elections 12
29. Acting President 12
30. Powers of the Acting President 12
31. Replacement of the President 13
32. General powers of the President 13
33. Limitation of the powers of the President 13
34. Voting of the President and Acting President 13

CONTENTS (continued)

Rule — Page

VI. BUREAU

35. 13

VII. SECRETARIAT

36. Duties of the Secretary-General 14
37. Duties of the Secretariat 14
38. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Authority 14

VIII. LANGUAGES

39. Languages 15
40. Interpretation 15
41. Languages of resolutions and other documents 15

IX. RECORDS

42. Records and sound recordings of meetings 15

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND ITS SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

43. Public and private meetings 16

XI. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

44. Invitation to silent prayer or meditation 16

XII. PLENARY MEETINGS

Conduct of business

45. Quorum 16
46. Speeches 16
47. Precedence 17
48. Statement by the Secretariat 17
49. Points of order 17
50. Time-limit on speeches 17
51. Closing of list of speakers, right of reply 17
52. Adjournment of debate 18
53. Closure of debate 18
54. Suspension or adjournment of the meeting 18
55. Order of procedural motions 18
56. Proposals and amendments 19
57. Decisions on competence 19
58. Withdrawal of motions 19
59. Reconsideration of proposals 19

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

Rule		Page
	XIII. DECISION-MAKING	
60.	Voting rights	20
61.	Decision-making	20
62.	Decisions on amendments to proposals relating to questions of substance	20
63.	Use of terms	20
64.	Deferment of voting on questions of substance coming up for voting for the first time	21
65.	Deferment of voting upon request for an advisory opinion	21
66.	Method of voting	21
67.	Conduct during voting	22
68.	Explanation of vote	22
69.	Division of proposals and amendments	22
70.	Order of voting on amendments	23
71.	Order of voting on proposals	23
72.	Elections	23
73.	Restricted balloting for one elective place	23
74.	Restricted balloting for two or more elective places	24
75.	Equally divided votes on matters other than elections	24
	XIV. SUBSIDIARY ORGANS	
76.	Establishment	24
77.	Composition	25
78.	Statements by non-members of a subsidiary organ	25
79.	Officers, conduct of business and voting	25
	XV. SUSPENSION OF RIGHTS	
80.	Suspension of the exercise of voting rights	25
81.	Suspension of the exercise of rights and privileges of membership	25
	XVI. OBSERVERS	
82.		26
	XVII. ELECTIONS TO ORGANS	
	Members of the Council	
83.	Nominations	27
84.	Elections	27
85.	Terms of office	28
86.	Eligibility for re-election	28
87.	By-elections	28

CONTENTS (continued)

Rule | Page

The Secretary-General of the Authority

88. Election of the Secretary-General 29

The Enterprise

89. Elections 29
90. Terms of office 29
91. By-elections 30
92. The Director-General of the Enterprise 30

XVIII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

93. Proposed annual budget 30
94. Financial implications of resolutions 30
95. Contributions 31

XIX. FINANCE COMMITTEE

96. Finance Committee 31

XX. AMENDMENTS

97. Method of amendment 32

Introductory note

On 28 July 1994 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the Agreement has been provisionally applied since 16 November 1994.

According to the Agreement, its provisions and Part XI of the Convention are to be interpreted and applied together as a single instrument; the present rules and references in these rules to the Convention are to be interpreted and applied accordingly.

I. SESSIONS

Regular sessions

Rule 1

Regular annual sessions

The Assembly shall meet in regular annual sessions unless it decides otherwise.

Rule 2

Date and duration

The date of commencement and the duration of each such session shall be decided by the previous session of the Assembly.

Rule 3

Notification of members

The Secretary-General shall notify the members of the Assembly at least sixty days in advance of the opening of a regular session.

Special sessions

Rule 4

Convening of special sessions

1. The Assembly may convene special sessions and shall fix the date of commencement and the duration of each such session.

2. At the request of the Council or of a majority of the members of the Authority, the Secretary-General shall convene a special session of the Assembly and it shall meet no earlier than thirty days and no later than ninety days after the receipt of such a request unless the request has stipulated otherwise.

3. Any member of the Authority may request the Secretary-General to convene a special session of the Assembly. The Secretary-General shall immediately inform the other members of the Authority of the request and inquire whether they concur in it. If within thirty days of the date of communication by the Secretary-General a majority of the members of the Assembly concur in the request, a special session of the Assembly shall be convened by the Secretary-General and it shall meet no earlier than thirty days and no later than ninety days after the receipt of such concurrence.

Rule 5

Notification of members

The Secretary-General shall notify the members of the Assembly at least thirty days in advance of the opening of a special session.

Regular and special sessions

Rule 6

Place of meeting

The Assembly shall meet at the seat of the Authority unless it decides otherwise.

Rule 7

Notification to observers

Copies of the notice convening each session of the Assembly shall be addressed to observers referred to in rule 82.

Rule 8

Temporary adjournment of session

The Assembly may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date. A regular session shall not normally be adjourned beyond the end of the year.

II. AGENDA

Regular sessions

Rule 9

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for a regular session shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the members of the Assembly and to observers referred to in rule 82 at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 10

Drawing up of the provisional agenda

The provisional agenda of a regular session shall include:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Authority;

(b) Reports from the Council and the Enterprise, 1/ and special reports requested from the Council or any other organs;

(c) Items the inclusion of which has been ordered by the Assembly at a previous session;

(d) Items proposed by the Council;

(e) Items proposed by any member of the Assembly;

(f) Items pertaining to the budget for the next financial period and the report on the accounts for the last financial period;

(g) Items which the Secretary-General deems it necessary to put before the Assembly.

Rule 11

Supplementary items

Any member of the Assembly, the Council or the Secretary-General may, at least thirty days before the date fixed for the opening of a regular session, request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be communicated to the members of the Assembly and to observers referred to in rule 82 at least twenty days before the opening of the session.

1/ See footnote 2.

Rule 12

Additional items

Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a regular session or during a regular session, may be placed on the agenda if the Assembly so decides by a majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Assembly decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting, be considered until seven days have elapsed since it was placed on the agenda.

Special sessions

Rule 13

Communication of the provisional agenda

The provisional agenda of a special session shall be communicated to the members of the Assembly and to observers referred to in rule 82 at least fourteen days before the opening of the session.

Rule 14

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session.

Rule 15

Supplementary items

Any member of the Assembly, the Council or the Secretary-General may, at least seven days before the date fixed for the opening of a special session, request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be communicated to the members of the Assembly and to observers referred to in rule 82 as soon as possible.

Rule 16

Additional items

During a special session, items on the supplementary list and additional items may be added to the agenda by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting.

Regular and special sessions

Rule 17

Explanatory memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents or by a draft resolution.

Rule 18

Adoption of the agenda

At each session, the provisional agenda and the supplementary list shall be submitted to the Assembly for approval as soon as possible after the opening of the session.

Rule 19

Amendment and deletion of items

Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Assembly by a majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting.

Rule 20

Debate on inclusion of items

Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three representatives of the members of the Assembly in favour of, and three against, the inclusion. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 21

Modification of the allocation of expenses

No proposal for a modification of the allocation of expenses for the time being in force shall be placed on the agenda unless it has been communicated to the members of the Assembly at least ninety days before the opening of the session.

III. REPRESENTATION

Rule 22

Representation

1. Each member of the Assembly shall be represented by an accredited representative and such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

2. Observers referred to in rule 82 shall be represented by accredited or designated representatives, as the case may be, and by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

3. The representative may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act in his capacity.

IV. CREDENTIALS

Rule 23

Submission of credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or person authorized by him or, in the case of entities referred to in article 305, paragraph 1 (f) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, by another competent authority.

Rule 24

Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session. It shall consist of nine members of the Assembly, who shall be appointed by the Assembly on the proposal of the President. The Committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of representatives of members and report to the Assembly without delay.

Rule 25

Provisional admission to a session

Pending a decision of the Assembly upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Assembly.

Rule 26

Objection to the representation

If an objection is raised against a representative, such objection shall be considered by the Credentials Committee forthwith. The report thereon shall be submitted to the Assembly without delay for its decision.

V. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Rule 27

Temporary President

At the opening of each regular session of the Assembly, the President of the previous session or, in his absence, the head of the delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the Assembly has elected a President for the session.

Rule 28

Elections

At the beginning of each regular session the Assembly shall elect its President and four Vice-Presidents in such a way as to ensure the representative character of the Bureau. They shall hold office until a new President and other officers are elected at the next regular session.

Rule 29

Acting President

If the President finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

Rule 30

Powers of the Acting President

A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 31

Replacement of the President

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected for the unexpired term.

Rule 32

General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, or by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session, direct the discussions in plenary meeting, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may, in the course of the discussion of an item, propose to the Assembly the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each representative may speak, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. He may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 33

Limitation of the powers of the President

The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Assembly.

Rule 34

Voting of the President and Acting President

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote but shall designate another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

VI. BUREAU

Rule 35

The President and Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau which shall meet periodically throughout each session to review the progress of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs and to make recommendations for furthering such progress. It shall also meet at such other times as the President deems necessary or upon the request of any other of its members. The Bureau shall

assist the President in the general conduct of the work of the Assembly which falls within the competence of the President. The Chairmen of the subsidiary organs of the Assembly may be invited to attend meetings of the Bureau.

VII. SECRETARIAT

Rule 36

Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs. He may designate a member of the Secretariat to act in his place at these meetings. He shall discharge such other responsibilities as are assigned to him by the Assembly in the conduct of its business.

2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Assembly and its subsidiary organs.

Rule 37

Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, translate, reproduce and distribute documents, reports and resolutions of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs; interpret speeches made at the meetings; prepare and circulate, if so decided by the Assembly in accordance with rule 42, the records of the session; have the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the Authority; distribute all documents of the Assembly to the members of the Authority and observers referred to in rule 82; and, generally, perform all other work which the Assembly may require.

Rule 38

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Authority

The Secretary-General shall make an annual report, and such supplementary reports as are necessary, to the Assembly at its regular session on the work of the Authority. He shall communicate the annual report to the members of the Authority and observers referred to in rule 82 at least forty-five days before the opening of the regular session.

VIII. LANGUAGES

Rule 39

Languages

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs.

Rule 40

Interpretation

1. Speeches made in a language of the Assembly shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. Any representative may make a speech in a language other than a language of the Assembly. In that case he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the languages of the Assembly. Interpretation into the other languages of the Assembly by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

Rule 41

Languages of resolutions and other documents

All resolutions and other documents shall be published in the languages of the Assembly.

IX. RECORDS

Rule 42

Records and sound recordings of meetings

1. The Assembly may keep summary records of plenary meetings if it so decides. As a general rule, such records shall be circulated as soon as possible, simultaneously in all languages of the Assembly, to all representatives, who shall inform the Secretariat within five working days after the circulation of the summary record of any changes they wish to have made.

2. The Secretariat shall make and retain sound recordings of meetings of the Assembly, and of its subsidiary organs when they so decide.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND ITS SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Rule 43

Public and private meetings

1. The meetings of the Assembly shall be held in public unless the Assembly decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

2. As a general rule, meetings of subsidiary organs shall be held in private.

3. All decisions of the Assembly taken at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the Assembly. At the close of a private meeting of a subsidiary organ, the Chairman may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General.

XI. MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

Rule 44

Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final plenary meeting of each session of the Assembly, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

XII. PLENARY MEETINGS

Conduct of business

Rule 45

Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least a majority of the members of the Assembly are present.

Rule 46

Speeches

No representative may address the Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 47

Precedence

The Chairman of a subsidiary organ may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that organ.

Rule 48

Statement by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by him as his representative may at any time make either oral or written statements to the Assembly concerning any question under consideration by it.

Rule 49

Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a member of the Assembly may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules of procedure. A representative of a member of the Assembly may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 50

Time-limit on speeches

The Assembly may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives of members of the Assembly may speak in favour of, and two against, a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a representative exceeds his allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Rule 51

Closing of list of speakers, right of reply

During the course of the debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Assembly, declare the list closed. He may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

Rule 52

Adjournment of debate

During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a member of the Assembly may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives of members of the Assembly may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 53

Closure of debate

A representative of a member of the Assembly may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives of members of the Assembly opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Assembly is in favour of the closure, the President shall declare the closure of the debate. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 54

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a member of the Assembly may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to the speaker moving the suspension or adjournment of the meeting.

Rule 55

Order of procedural motions

Subject to rule 49, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 56

Proposals and amendments

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations in the languages of the Assembly not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Rule 57

Decisions on competence

Subject to rule 55, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Assembly to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

Rule 58

Withdrawal of motions

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

Rule 59

Reconsideration of proposals

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two representatives of members of the Assembly opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

XIII. DECISION-MAKING

Rule 60

Voting rights

Each member of the Assembly shall have one vote. Participation in decision-making by entities referred to in article 305, paragraph 1 (f), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea shall be in accordance with Annex IX of the Convention.

Rule 61

Decision-making

1. As a general rule, decision-making in the Assembly should be by consensus.

2. If all efforts to reach a decision by consensus have been exhausted, decisions by voting in the Assembly on questions of procedure shall be taken by a majority of members present and voting, and decisions on questions of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, as provided for in article 159, paragraph 8, of the Convention.

3. Decisions of the Assembly on any matter for which the Council also has competence or on any administrative, budgetary or financial matter shall be based on the recommendations of the Council. If the Assembly does not accept the recommendation of the Council on any matter, it shall return the matter to the Council for further consideration. The Council shall reconsider the matter in the light of the views expressed by the Assembly.

4. Decisions by the Assembly having financial or budgetary implications shall be based on the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Rule 62

Decisions on amendments to proposals relating to questions of substance

Decisions of the Assembly on amendments to proposals relating to questions of substance, and on parts of such proposals put to the vote separately, shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting, provided that such majority includes a majority of the members participating in the session.

Rule 63

Use of terms

1. For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "members of the Assembly present and voting" means members of the Assembly present and casting an affirmative or

negative vote. Members of the Assembly who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

2. Subject to the provisions of rules 23 to 26 and without prejudice to the powers and functions of the Credentials Committee, the term "members of the Assembly participating" in relation to any particular session of the Assembly means any member of the Assembly whose representatives have registered with the Secretariat as participating in that session and which has not subsequently notified the Secretariat of its withdrawal from that session or part of it. The Secretariat shall keep a register for this purpose.

Rule 64

Deferment of voting on questions of substance coming up for voting for the first time

When a question of substance comes up for voting for the first time, the President may, and shall, if requested by at least one fifth of the members of the Assembly, defer the issue of taking a vote on that question for a period not exceeding five calendar days. This rule may be applied only once to any question, and shall not be applied so as to defer the question beyond the end of the session.

Rule 65

Deferment of voting upon request for an advisory opinion

Upon a written request addressed to the President and sponsored by at least one fourth of the members of the Assembly for an advisory opinion on the conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of a proposal before the Assembly on any matter, the Assembly shall request the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to give an advisory opinion thereon and shall defer voting on that proposal pending receipt of the advisory opinion by the Chamber. If the advisory opinion is not received before the final week of the session in which it is requested, the Assembly shall decide when it will meet to vote upon the deferred proposal.

Rule 66

Method of voting

1. The Assembly shall, in the absence of mechanical means for voting, vote by show of hands or by standing but a representative of any member of the Assembly may request a roll-call. The roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members of the Assembly participating in that session, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each member of the Assembly shall be called in any roll-call, and one of its representatives shall reply "yes", "no" or

"abstention". The result of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

2. When the Assembly votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands or by standing and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative of any member of the Assembly may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Assembly shall, unless a representative of a member of the Assembly requests otherwise, dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members; nevertheless, the result of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the same manner as that of a roll-call vote.

Rule 67

Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative of a member of the Assembly may interrupt the voting, except that representatives of members of the Assembly may interrupt on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of voting.

Rule 68

Explanation of vote

Representatives of members of the Assembly may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of their votes before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such statements. The representative of a member of the Assembly sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Rule 69

Division of proposals and amendments

A representative of a member of the Assembly may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favour and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Rule 70

Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Assembly shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of the proposal.

Rule 71

Order of voting on proposals

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Assembly shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Assembly may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 72

Elections

All elections shall be held by secret ballot.

Rule 73

Restricted balloting for one elective place

1. When one person or a member of the Assembly is to be elected and no candidate obtains in the first ballot the votes of a majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among more than two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If on that ballot a tie remains among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

3. If a two-thirds majority is required, the balloting shall be continued until one candidate secures two thirds of the votes cast; provided that, after

the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or member. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the two candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until a person or member of the Assembly is elected.

4. The above provisions of this rule shall not prejudice the application of rules 83, 84 and 96.

Rule 74

Restricted balloting for two or more elective places

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the majority required shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such a majority is less than the number of persons or members of the Assembly to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled; provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or member of the Assembly. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled. The above provisions of this rule shall not prejudice the application of rules 83, 84 and 96.

Rule 75

Equally divided votes on matters other than elections

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting which shall be held within 48 hours of the first vote; and it shall be expressly mentioned in the agenda that a second vote will be taken on the matter in question. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

XIV. SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Rule 76

Establishment

The Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs as it finds necessary for the exercise of its functions.

Rule 77

Composition

In the composition of subsidiary organs due account shall be taken of the principle of equitable geographical distribution and of special interests and the need for members qualified and competent in the relevant technical questions dealt with by such organs.

Rule 78

Statements by non-members of a subsidiary organ

Any member of the Assembly that is not a member of a subsidiary organ shall have the right to explain its views to that organ when a matter particularly affecting it is under consideration.

Rule 79

Officers, conduct of business and voting

The rules relating to officers, conduct of business and voting of the Assembly apply, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of subsidiary organs except that the Chairman of a subsidiary organ may exercise the right to vote.

XV. SUSPENSION OF RIGHTS

Rule 80

Suspension of the exercise of voting rights

A member of the Assembly which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Authority shall have no vote if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a member of the Assembly to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member.

Rule 81

Suspension of the exercise of rights and privileges of membership

1. A member of the Authority which has grossly and persistently violated the provisions of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Council.

2. No action may be taken under paragraph 1 until the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has found that a member of the Authority has grossly and persistently violated the provisions of Part XI of the Convention.

XVI. OBSERVERS

Rule 82

1. The following may participate as observers in the Assembly:

(a) States and entities referred to in article 305 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which are not members of the Authority;

(b) National liberation movements which in their respective regions are recognized by the Organization of African Unity or by the League of Arab States;

(c) Observers to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea who have signed the Final Act and who are not referred to in article 305, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (e) and (f), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(d) The United Nations, its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental organizations invited by the Assembly;

(e) Non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly which have demonstrated their interest in matters under the consideration by the Assembly.

2. Observers referred to in paragraph 1 (a), (b) and (c) of this rule may participate subject to the provisions of these rules in the deliberations of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs but shall not be entitled to participate in the taking of decisions.

3. Observers referred to in paragraph 1 (d) of this rule may participate in the deliberations of the Assembly upon the invitation of the President on questions within the scope of their competence.

4. Written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (d) of this rule shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the members of the Assembly.

5. Observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of this rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly, and upon the invitation of the President and subject to the approval by the Assembly may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities.

6. Written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of this rule within the scope of their activities which are relevant to the work of

the Assembly should be made available by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.

XVII. ELECTIONS TO ORGANS

Members of the Council

Rule 83

Nominations

1. Before electing the members of the Council, the Assembly shall establish lists of countries fulfilling the criteria for membership in the groups of States referred to in rule 84 (a) to (d). If a State fulfils the criteria for membership in more than one group it will be included in the lists of all relevant groups but it may only be proposed by one group for election to the Council and it shall represent only that group in voting in the Council.

2. Each group of States referred to in rule 84 (a) to (d) shall be represented in the Council by those members nominated by that group. Each group shall nominate only as many candidates as the number of seats required to be filled by that group. When the number of potential candidates in each of the groups referred to in rule 84 (a) to (e) exceeds the number of seats available in each of those respective groups, as a general rule, the principle of rotation shall apply. States members of each of those groups shall determine how this principle shall apply in those groups.

Rule 84

Elections

The Council shall consist of 36 members of the Authority elected by the Assembly in the following order:

(a) Four members from among those States Parties which, during the last five years for which statistics are available, have either consumed more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world consumption or have had net imports of more than 2 per cent in value terms of total world imports of the commodities produced from the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, provided that the four members shall include one State from the Eastern European region having the largest economy in that region in terms of gross domestic product and the State, on the date of entry into force of the Convention, having the largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, if such States wish to be represented in this group;

(b) Four members from among the eight States Parties which have made the largest investments in preparation for and in the conduct of activities in the Area, either directly or through their nationals;

(c) Four members from among States Parties which, on the basis of production in areas under their jurisdiction, are major net exporters of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, including at least two developing States whose exports of such minerals have a substantial bearing upon their economies;

(d) Six members from among developing States Parties, representing special interests. The special interests to be represented shall include those of States with large populations, States which are land-locked or geographically disadvantaged, island States, States which are major importers of the categories of minerals to be derived from the Area, States which are potential producers of such minerals and least developed States;

(e) Eighteen members elected according to the principle of ensuring an equitable geographical distribution of seats in the Council as a whole, provided that each geographical region shall have at least one member elected under this subparagraph. For this purpose, the geographical regions shall be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Europe and Others.

Rule 85

Terms of office

Each member of the Council shall be elected for four years. At the first election, however, the term of one half of the members of each group referred to in rule 84 shall be for two years. Determination of the members whose terms are to expire at the end of two years shall, as a general rule, be left to the agreement of each group. If no agreement can be reached, the members whose terms are to expire at the end of two years shall be chosen by lot to be drawn by the President of the Assembly immediately after the first election.

Rule 86

Eligibility for re-election

Members of the Council shall be eligible for re-election, but due regard should be paid to the desirability of rotation of membership. Members of the Council which were elected upon the nomination by one of the groups referred to in rule 84 (a) to (d) but which fulfil the criteria for membership in other groups, may be re-elected to the Council upon the nomination by one of those groups.

Rule 87

By-elections

Should a member cease to belong to the Council before its term of office expires, a by-election shall be held separately at the next session of the Assembly to elect a member for the unexpired term.

The Secretary-General of the Authority

Rule 88

Election of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall be elected for four years by the Assembly from among the candidates proposed by the Council and may be re-elected.

The Enterprise 2/

Rule 89

Elections

1. The Assembly shall elect, upon the recommendation of the Council, the fifteen members of the Governing Board of the Enterprise.

2. In the election of the members of the Board, due regard shall be paid to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In submitting nominations of candidates for election to the Board, members of the Authority shall bear in mind the need to nominate candidates of the highest standard of competence, with qualifications in relevant fields, so as to ensure the viability and success of the Enterprise.

Rule 90

Terms of office

1. Members of the Board shall be elected for four years and may be re-elected; due regard shall be paid to the principle of rotation of membership.

2. Members of the Board shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

2/ According to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Secretariat of the Authority shall perform the functions of the Enterprise until it begins to operate independently of the Secretariat. Upon the approval of a plan of work for exploitation for an entity other than the Enterprise, or upon receipt by the Council of an application for a joint-venture operation with the Enterprise, the Council shall take up the issue of the functioning of the Enterprise independently of the Secretariat of the Authority. If joint-venture operations with the Enterprise accord with sound commercial principles, the Council shall issue a directive pursuant to article 170, paragraph 2, of the Convention providing for such independent functioning.

Rule 91

By-elections

If the office of a member of the Board becomes vacant, the Assembly shall, in accordance with rule 89, elect a new member for the remainder of his predecessor's term.

Rule 92

The Director-General of the Enterprise

The Assembly shall, upon the recommendation of the Council and the nomination of the Governing Board, elect the Director-General of the Enterprise, who shall not be a member of the Board. The Director-General shall hold office for a fixed term, not exceeding five years, and may be re-elected for further terms.

XVIII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Rule 93

Proposed annual budget

The Assembly shall consider and approve the proposed annual budget of the Authority submitted by the Council taking into account the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Rule 94

Financial implications of resolutions

No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended for approval by the Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General and any recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Rule 95 3/

Contributions

The Assembly shall assess the contributions of members of the Authority to the administrative budget of the Authority in accordance with an agreed scale of assessment based upon the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations until the Authority shall have sufficient income from other sources to meet its administrative expenses.

XIX. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rule 96

Finance Committee

1. The Assembly shall elect 15 members of the Finance Committee from the candidates nominated by the States Parties by taking into due account the need for equitable geographical distribution and the representation of special interests. Members of the Finance Committee shall have appropriate qualifications relevant to financial matters.

2. Candidates for the election to the Finance Committee shall be nominated by the States Parties. They shall be of the highest standards of competence and integrity.

3. No two members of the Finance Committee shall be nationals of the same State Party.

4. Each group of States referred to in rule 84 (a) to (d) shall be represented on the Finance Committee by at least one member. Until the Authority has sufficient funds other than assessed contributions to meet its administrative expenses, the membership of the Finance Committee shall include representatives of the five largest financial contributors to the administrative budget of the Authority. Thereafter, the election of one member from each group shall be on the basis of nomination by the members of the respective group, without prejudice to the possibility of further members being elected from each group.

5. Members of the Finance Committee shall hold office for a term of five years. They shall be eligible for re-election for a further term.

3/ According to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the administrative expenses of the Authority shall be met through the budget of the United Nations until the end of the year following the year during which that Agreement enters into force.

6. In the event of the death, incapacity or resignation of a member of the Finance Committee prior to the expiration of the term of office, the Assembly shall elect for the remainder of the term a member from the same geographical region or group of States.

XX. AMENDMENTS

Rule 97

Method of amendment

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Assembly, taken by a simple majority of the members of the Assembly present and voting, after a committee has considered the proposed amendment.